(c) whether details of the proposed accord have been finalised and if so, the basis of this accord; and

(d) whether the details of the agreement would be placed before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) Government is aware of the media reports in this regard. The Chief Minister, J and K called on the Prime Minister on 17 July 2000. It was mutually agreed that the Government of India and Government of Jammu and Kashmir will be in touch with each other on the subject of devolution of powers to the State. However details and modalities of such devolution were not discussed.

Hurriyat Conference

2540. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hurriyat conference leaders have been pressing hard for the inclusion of Pakistan in resolving what they perceive the "disputed legacy of Kashmir";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have ruled out any talks over Kashmir particularly against the backdrop of the existing atmosphere of Pakistan's hostile posturing towards India;

(d) whether Government have any latest and fresh initiative for the proposed peace parleys with Kashmir-Centric leaders; and

(e) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However no proposal for considering associating Pakistan in any talks that Government may have with such people is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Indian has all along maintained that the question of a

dialogue with Pakistan is a separate issue and that India is willing to talk with Pakistan on all matters of bilateral concern when Islamabad demonstrates its resolve to end cross border terrorism.

(d) and (e) The Government had welcomed the peace initiative taken by Hizbul-Mujahideen and had invited them to come over-ground for talks and initial contacts were also established with them. However Hizbul-Mujahideen has since withdrawn the cease-fire. The Government will however not deviate from its chosen course of talks with all those in Kashmir who eschew the path of terror and violence and its simultaneous battle against all those who continue to stick to that path.

Construction of Concrete Bunkers along the Border

2541. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the view that there is a need to construct concrete bunkers for the people living along border;

(b) if so, whether this would help the people living on border to protect themselves against the constant shelling on civilian population;

(c) if so, whether Government would take necesary steps in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) As intimated by the government of J and K, in some border areas like Karnah, Karian, Machtil, Uri, there is need for construction of bunkers in view of the constant shelling from across the border.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A sum of Rs. 5 crores has been released to the State Govt. from National Defence Fund for construction of bunkers in border areas.